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AGENCY CONTACT MEMORANDUM #2011-1001

To: Agency CIOs, Technical Contacts
From: Steve Rucker, Commissioner
Commonwealth Office of Technology
Date: Oct. 14, 2011
Subject: Active Directory Upgrade

The Commonwealth Office of Technology sent an Agency Contact Memo on July 15, 2011, announcing the planned upgrade of the Commonwealth's directory services infrastructure to Active Directory Domain Services 2008 R2. This upgrade will provide feature enhancements, advanced security features, and more granular auditing capabilities.

With any upgrade of Directory Services, there is the potential to impact custom written or third party applications. While it is not typical for an Active Directory upgrade to impact a particular application, various issues may occur. Since some domain controllers will get a new IP address and computer name, issues may arise if the application contains hardcoded information such as the IP address or the computer name (FQDN) of a particular domain controller. If this is the case, the preferred solution is to update the application so it conforms to best practice as outlined in the link below. A less preferred approach is to point the application to the new Windows 2008 R2 domain controller infrastructure, but this may necessitate coding updates whenever hardware is changed in the future.

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms806997.aspx>

We ask that every agency start working with their development staff or third party vendors to assess the impact of the upgrade to your agency's applications and develop a remediation plan for those that might be affected. The Commonwealth Office of Technology will have a lab environment available for agencies to utilize for testing applications with the new version of Active Directory. If you are interested in using COT's lab, please contact the project manager, Kim Thomas at 502-564-1608 or kim.thomas@ky.gov. She will be reaching out to the various agency contacts in the near future to discuss upgrade plans.